GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1972
ANSWERED ON:09.03.2001
IMPORT OF EDIBLE OILS
T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether more than twenty-nine lakh tonnes of edible oils had been imported under Open General Licence (OGL) during 1999-2000 while the estimated shortfall was to the tune of 14.56 lakh tonnes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether during 1998-99 against a shortage of 19.38 lakh tonnes of edible oils, import was to the tune of 43 lakh tonnes;

(d) if so, the reasons for import of huge quantities of edible oils

(e) whether the excess import had resulted in downward revision of issue price of edible oils in T.P.D.S.; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (S SREENIVASA PRASAD)

(a),(b) & (c) : Net availability of edible oils from domestic sources, demand and import of edible oils during the year 1998-99 and 1999-2000 have been as under:-

(in lakh MTs)

Year	Net availability of edible oils from domestic sources	Demand of edible oils#	Import of edible oils+
1998-99	70.81	91.99	38.59
1999-2000	62.20	96.43	34.55

Source : As per Economic Parameters of Planning Commission.
+ Source : DGCIS, Ministry of Commerce.

(d) Main reasons for increased import of edible oils are significant fall in international prices, rationalisation of duty structure which encourages import of crude vegetable oil by processing units and thus value addition within the country.

(e) & (f) : Due to easy availability of edible oils in the open market the oil was available at the rates cheaper than the PDS retail prices. Therefore, offtake of edible oil allocated to the States was not satisfactory. To augment offtake by the States the CIP was revised w.e.f. 27.7.99 and further w.e.f. 24.4.2000.